

# BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

BOARD OF WORLD MISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2018



## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR...



Thomas Baucom

**One of the greatest mysteries to me as a child** was how our organist could seamlessly transition from any choir anthem to the Doxology. The key or tempo of the preceding anthem never seemed to inhibit his exploratory harmonic and melodic journey. It simply felt like magic when the pastor would raise his hand to encourage the congregation to rise as the organ “arrived” at the familiar first line. As I have gotten older, I have been blessed to learn some of the musical logistics that the organist employed, but I can still be moved to tears by the magic of the modulation.

I don't think the impact is all musical though. We often use the word Doxology to simply refer to a response to the offering during a church service. I don't think we stop enough to think about or even pay attention to what it means, or even the idea that it conveys. The first line of the Doxology is “Praise God from whom all blessings flow.” What if we stop thinking of the word “Doxology” in terms of a step in the order of worship or a signal that the conclusion of the service is coming? What if we started to realize that this word was talking about our daily life? As blessings flow through people, we are called to respond by using those blessings to bless others. We are encouraged by the words of Matthew when he writes, “Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

I am extremely grateful for all of the blessings bestowed upon the Board of World Mission and the larger Moravian Unity and am extremely proud of our work together in 2018. As we pause to reflect upon the past year, let us dare to dream of the possible blessings in 2019. We are all so blessed; how will we continue to be a blessing to all? Much like the church organist of my youth, no matter the dissonance or pace of what is going on around us, we must all rise and sing together, “Praise God from whom all blessings flow!”

## 2018 DIRECTORS

## BOARD OF WORLD MISSION

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Board-Appointed, Southern Province

**David Geyer, Vice-Chair\***

Eastern District, Northern Province

**Becky Turnbull, Secretary\***

Eastern District, Northern Province

**Betsy Miller\***

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**Joe Jarvis\***

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**Clifford Jimmie**

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**Hilda Regalado**

Southern Province

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**Rex Knowlton**

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## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

**An annual report is an interesting thing.** When so much of the work of the Board of World Mission involves day-to-day decisions, it is easy to complete a task and move on to the next challenge or opportunity without reflecting on the bigger picture. We hope that the pages that follow give each reader insight into ways these individual efforts are all a part of one mission, God's mission, in the world.

Last year's Annual Report focused on the way the BWM was committing to Mission Outreach and Mission Engagement. This year we worked to live that out and accomplish our purpose of building relationships through Mission Outreach and Mission Engagement to be faithful to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

We chose this year's theme, "Blessed to Be a Blessing," for several reasons (with the most specific reason covered on page 11... complete with song lyrics!). A report like this is a chance to count our blessings and also to take stock of the way in which the blessings of the Lord do not end with our part in God's mission.

In Peru, I had the opportunity to give the gift of a donated copy of the Spanish Moravian Daily Text. I then watched a Moravian pastor, Manuel, in this mission area carry that book, explain the tradition to some leaders in training in the Amazon region of Peru and had them reflect on the verses in their native language, Awajun. This was the first time this long-standing tradition has ever been experienced in that language! Truly, the traditions which have blessed the Moravian Church for centuries are still relevant, and it is our call to seek ways to be a blessing to others!



Justin Rabbach





Above: BWM Executive Director Justin Rabbach with Aguauna children in Peru.

Sam Gray is director of Mission Outreach.



## MISSION OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**2018 was certainly a year** in which we saw our global partners stepping out in faith to be a blessing to others.

Less than one week into the year, we took part in revival services at Mt. Tabor Moravian Church in Barbados with the theme, “Bring Them In.” But as the week progressed, everyone agreed that we should change that to “Send Us Out,” because we are called to step out in faith and reach people where they are.

We were asked to lead a mission conference in Costa Rica. More than 50 Costa Rican Moravians, representing four congregations, spent a weekend exploring mission principles from Matthew’s gospel (Matthew 4, where Jesus calls four fishermen to ministries of mending and casting; Matthew 10, where Jesus calls his disciples in, and then sends them out; Matthew 14, where Jesus teaches his disciples to use available resources to serve people;

Matthew 25, where Jesus shows concrete ways of serving him; and Matthew 28, where Jesus sends us out into the world to make disciples, so that the blessing can continue).

At the ministers’ retreat in Honduras, about 160 Honduran Moravian leaders gathered to discern how God would have them reach out to those who are excluded and affected by the division in the church. We explored the theme of “unity” from a Biblical perspective as well as from a Moravian understanding, as reflected in the *Ground of the Unity*. We came to the conclusion that a Unity Province lives up to its name when it truly is faithful to the Great Commandment (to love one another) and to the Great Commission (to share this love and this message with all people).

Three of our Global Partners celebrated the consecration of bishops. According to our Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum, our orders of



ministry are not reflections of rank or status, but of service. This means that the consecration of a bishop provides for expanded service to the world.

In January, Brother Armando Rusindo was consecrated in the Episcopal Cathedral in Havana, Cuba (there was no Moravian church building large enough to host the glorious occasion). Moravians from seven districts across the island, as well as ecumenical friends, attended the historic event. This was the first consecration of a Moravian bishop in the Cuba Mission Province.

In April, Brother Brinmore Phaul was consecrated in Georgetown, Guyana. It was very fitting for the service to conclude with a rousing rendition of the hymn, "To God Be The Glory!"

In July, Brother Ezekiel Yona was consecrated at an eight-hour service of celebration in Tabora, Tanzania. Brother Yona was challenged to follow the example of another Ezekiel (the prophet) who understood that serving God means serving God's people.

2018 was also a time when our assigned Mission Areas, Peru and Sierra Leone, took significant steps to reach out and share the blessing with people in their communities who have not yet been reached by the ministry of the Moravian Church.

The Rev. Mohamed Braima had a vision for a radio station to reach people in Sierra Leone with the good news of Jesus Christ. But in 2018, that vision was given a lowered priority due to the exciting news of the spread of the ministry into another tribe, the Kissy Mende people in the nearby town of Kaihlun. There are now four congregations in Luawa Yiehun, Morfindor, Mbaoma and Kailahun. The new Kailahun congregation will certainly prove to be the largest of the four, and we celebrate these new followers of Christ as the ministry spreads across tribal lines!

In Peru, Moravians caught a vision for reaching out to Aguaruna tribal people in the Amazon region. BWM and Northern Province representatives joined Peru Moravian leaders for conferences with Aguaruna leaders from 19 tribal villages. A covenant was signed stating that these communities will be part of the Moravian Church in Peru, and a Moravian Amazon District Committee was formed. Peruvian Moravians collected food, clothing and SundaysSchool materials to share with these new sisters and brothers.

Blessed... to be a blessing!



Bishop Sam Gray baptizes in Peru.



Mohamed Braima in Sierra Leone.

Conferences in Honduras and Costa Rica.



# MORAVIAN DISASTER RESPONSE



Repair work underway in St. Thomas, thanks to MDR.

**Our hearts break when we hear** that people have been affected by disasters such as fires, hurricanes, tornados and earthquakes. We have additional concern when these events adversely impact some of our Moravian brothers and sisters around the world. Moravian Disaster Response (MDR) is the primary means by which the Board of World Mission reaches out to assist when these disasters strike. As a result, in the past year the BWM has reached out to bring the hands and feet of Christ to many who are suffering.

In September 2017, Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated the islands of St. Thomas, St. John and Tortola. Along with homes and infrastructure, Moravian congregations there suffered significant damage—some to the point of a complete loss.

In Summer 2018, volunteers from around the Northern and Southern Provinces formed four work teams that spent many hours putting the Memorial Moravian School back into sufficient shape to begin the school year. In March, a team of students from Moravian College arrived on Tortola to do construction work, and a team

of youth and adults from Sister Bay Moravian Church headed back to St. Thomas to continue work there.

In August 2018, work teams hosted at Covenant Moravian Church in Wilmington, N.C., worked on the homes of families who were in need of assistance following the devastation caused by the winds and floods of Hurricane Florence. There they installed a new roof, removed moldy walls and flooring and did clean-up work in yards. An additional team was assembled just this past March to continue this work; another team is due this summer.

Rev. Chris Thore of the Clemmons Moravian Church is beginning to coordinate work crews to help completely rebuild a home in Lumberton, N.C., damaged by Hurricane Florence. Through MDR, the BWM is pleased to be helping to fund this project and get the word out about work crew opportunities.

In addition to these work crews, MDR has helped fund relief work for the wildfires that ravaged California, the fire that swept through the Moravian village of Wupperthal, South Africa, and the recent tornado that damaged parts of Havana, Cuba.

All of this work is made possible by the support that we receive not only from the annual budgets of the Northern, Southern, and Alaskan Provinces, but even more so by the contributions that we receive from individuals who respond to the appeals that we send out following these disasters. Your gifts and support bring the light of Christ to those who are in the midst of suffering. On their behalf, we say thank you!



# MISSION ENGAGEMENT

**It has been my pleasure to serve** the BWM as the Director of Mission Engagement since September 2018. In many ways I am still learning what this is all about and how to best serve the Lord through the expansive ministry that the BWM represents. But I have been here long enough to know that the main focus of my ministry is making connections with the local congregations of North America.

There is so very much happening throughout the Moravian world to share with you, most especially with our partners in the Unity Provinces of Alaska, Costa Rica, Eastern West Indies, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua and Western Tanzania; two mission provinces of Cuba and Labrador; and two mission areas of Peru and Sierra Leone. It is my privilege to be able to connect congregations with these areas of the Moravian world in mutually beneficial ways.

My greatest joy has been the opportunity to visit local congregations to do things such as preach for a designated Mission Sunday, do workshops to establish mission priorities both near and far and to connect mission-minded folks who either want to financially support worthy causes or wish to volunteer their time and talent to help others.

If I can be of assistance to you or your congregation, please contact me at [chris@moravianmission.org](mailto:chris@moravianmission.org), or by phone at 610-868-1732.



Chris Giesler leads mission engagement activities and coordinates MDR efforts for the Board of World Mission.

*Brian and Janet Diehl from Mountainview Moravian Church served for two weeks in Wilmington, North Carolina.*

All throughout our time spent in the mission field, our top priority was always the homeowner. We listened to their stories; together we laughed, cried, hugged. As we were taught on our first day, the reason we were there was to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. The way we achieved that was through the physical labor and an outpouring of love. In doing so, we proclaimed the hope of the Gospel. There had been so much suffering, but the people we met were very gracious and appreciative of the work our team performed. To anyone feeling drawn to get involved in some way, big or small, take a leap of faith. There are many tasks for a wide range of ages, gifts and abilities. I guarantee it will change your life. God doesn't choose

the equipped, he equips the chosen. Remember..."whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matt 25:40)

Brian Diehl clears water-damaged drywall in North Carolina.





## ANTIOCH

Shane Sullivan at work in the U.S. Virgin Islands; Karena Mohr (third from left in middle row) with Camp Camaguey participants in Cuba.

**In Acts, the community of Antioch** hears and responds to the gospel message with a vitality to join and live in a “Way” based on the teachings of Jesus. The disciples that live among the people meet with and teach them how they are being called into a renewed and transforming relationship with God.

Central to this “Way” of Jesus is serving: *the loving use of whatever power you possess for the good of another.* The Board of World Mission’s Antioch Program shares this intent and spirit to follow in Jesus’ way by receiving invitations to join the efforts of others throughout the worldwide Moravian Unity, then working with adult volunteers to engage in cross-cultural ministry. Recent domestic and international site options have included Alaska, Cuba, Honduras, Jamaica, Nepal, Pennsylvania, Peru, U.S. & British Virgin Islands and Wisconsin.

One servant, Shane, was part of a mission team that helped prepare a USVI Moravian Church School for its upcoming school year. Their week was spent deconstructing damaged classrooms, including removing main

beams that held up the floor. They worked extremely hard, but also enjoyed beach time and visiting in the community. This trip was an absolute blessing to be a part of, as it brought Shane together with like-minded individuals to help an area devastated by hurricanes. He volunteered on three trips to New York to provide Superstorm Sandy relief, but never saw such heartbreak until this trip. Shane hopes more volunteers can donate their time and energy on future trips to help aid in the restoration of the entire Caribbean area. If not, he states there are always opportunities in people’s hometowns to help those in need.

Another servant, Karena, shares this reflection: “By this mission trip, I saw how devoted to God the local people are, and I really felt the grace of God among us while they were reading the Daily Texts and singing. It made me realize I need to strengthen my relationship with God. Whenever my belief starts withering, I will remember my experiences in Cuba and how the presence of God was in all the people there, and that I need to regain strength in my relationship with God.”



Jill Kolodziej manages the Antioch Program for the BWM.



# MISSION GRANTS

**The BWM has worked** in the recent past to adapt its model of ministry to better serve our global partners. We reduced long-standing operational subsidies to full Unity Province partners as a positive reflection of their ability to support their own annual operations. As we move forward, a BWM program called “Mission Grants” will soon replace this support.

Mission Grants are made available to partners on an application basis. The BWM works with partners to help shape projects, then invests resources where we have the ability to partner and see a project through to completion.

The two main goals of these projects are to build capacity for the church to minister to its neighbors in a given area and to develop leaders who can help guide the church in their context.

In 2018, more than \$35,000 was awarded to projects including:

- Theological scholarships for pastors in Honduras
- Building a science lab at the Moravian Kisanji Girls School in Tanzania
- Support of a pastor in a new outreach ministry in Marshall, Alaska

These are just a few examples. The number of applications for funding continues to increase as the stories of projects supported in the past—a radio station in Puerto Lempira, Honduras, seed-funding for a laundromat in Lima, Peru, and others—are shared amongst global partners.

If you are looking to financially support an area of the BWM’s work, we highly suggest a gift towards “Mission Grants” to allow us to fund more tangible, life-changing programs!



Gilberto Molina directs the Honduras Bible Institute.



The church building in Marshall, Alaska.

The BOARD OF WORLD MISSION builds relationships through  
MISSION OUTREACH and MISSION ENGAGEMENT  
to be faithful to THE GREAT COMMANDMENT  
and THE GREAT COMMISSION.

ANTIOCH  
MISSION TEAM TRAINING  
MISSION DISCERNMENT WORKSHOPS  
INTERNSHIPS  
DISCIPLESHIP  
MDR

# MISSION ENGAGEMENT

EDUCATION · SERVICE · MISSION SUPPORT



AREA DEVELOPMENT · LEADERSHIP ·  
GROWTH & OUTREACH

NEW WORK  
GLOBAL PARTNERS  
MEDICAL MISSIONS  
LIKEWISE/HUKWFA  
COVENANT RELATIONSHIPS  
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

# MISSION OUTREACH



# BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

**The Board of World Mission** chose the theme for its annual report to be “Blessed to be a Blessing” as a reflection and celebration of the tremendous work of Rick Nelson in service to our Lord and the Moravian Church, specifically in Honduras and with the Ahuas Clinic.

While you can read more words from Rick in the pages that follow, we wanted to share a song by the same

name written by Rick’s brother Bruce. Bruce is the president of the Western District Executive Board and wrote this song to thank his congregation as he transitioned into his president’s role. But as you can see below, it was based on a reflection of the work of his brother Rick.

Our prayer at the Board of World Mission is that we can continue to live out our work inspired by these words.

## **“Blessed to be a Blessing”** *by Bruce Nelson*

As I was writing the song, I could not help but think of my brother in Christ and my blood brother, Rick Nelson, who has devoted so many years to the ministry in Ahuas, Honduras. When Rick is asked why he has devoted so much time and energy to Ahuas his response is always the same. He says, “I have been blessed in so many ways and I am called to respond to that blessedness by trying to be a blessing to others. I believe I have been blessed to be a blessing.” This phrase is alluded to in Genesis 12 in the account of the call of Abram.

Blessed to be a blessing as I follow you.  
Blessed to be a blessing, my life it is in you!  
Oh Lord, how you have blessed me as I seek to serve you.  
Oh Lord, how you have blessed me; my life is complete in you.

Blessed to be a blessing as I follow you.  
Blessed to be a blessing, my life it is in you!  
Oh Lord, I long to serve you, a faithful servant I’ll be.  
Oh Lord, I long to serve you until eternity!

Blessed to be a blessing as I follow you.  
Blessed to be a blessing, my life it is in you!



BWM staff includes Justin Rabbach, Sheila Beaman, Sam Gray, Jill Kolodziej, Chris Gielser, Rex Knowlton and Deb Swanson.

## FROM OUR STAFF

**We, as followers of Christ,** have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus, all of which are eternal. What a joy we have as staff to share with others how they too can experience these blessings.

Our office is able to assist many people desiring to use their gifts to let the light of Christ offer hope in our broken world. We inform them of how BWM can distribute financial gifts to meet needs. We advise them of places they can personally go to serve with their medical, education or construction skills. We provide financial assistance to help with their mission trips.

Through e-mails, newsletters and phone calls, BWM informs others about events to learn about the latest mission developments in the Moravian Unity. Our Southern Province congregations enthusiastically share this news with their members. They also share their gifts and talents by invit-

ing mission speakers and hosting the Spring BWM board meetings. Working together as the body of Christ makes it possible for many, many more to know God's love.

*Sheila Beaman, administrative assistant, Winston-Salem office*

**It certainly is a blessing to work** in the Northern Province office to be able to see the support that pours in through donations, both online and through the mail. The telephone calls, visits and letters that come in from Moravians across the country, offering support in any way they are able, whether it be financially, physically or through prayer, is an inspiring reminder of how many wonderful people we have in our Moravian world.

2018 was another year which brought devastation and destruction through natural disasters to several Moravian communities and beyond.



The Moravian support system was there for us—sometimes even before we put out the call—to bolster our ability to respond through Moravian Disaster Response, near and far!

*Deb Swanson, executive assistant,  
main office, Bethlehem*

**The BWM processes more than 100 wire transactions** each year worth many thousands of dollars as a means of support to our partners around the world, often in their time of need and just as often to supplement our Christian outreach.

When a disaster strikes, such as the hurricanes, wild fires and severe

storms we've seen over the past few years, often our first response is processing monetary support received from many of our donors to immediately assist in getting communities back on their feet. Some of our ongoing efforts, like those to Honduras or Nicaragua, assure a constant stream of medical care for those with limited options. Other ongoing efforts assist with education or specialized learning, such as with the deaf in Palestine.

Clearly one of our Moravian tools from our BWM toolbox manifests how the Lord is able to bless us and keep us, worldwide.

*Rex Knowlton, BWM treasurer*



Sylvie Hauser from Sturgeon Bay (Wis.) Moravian Church was one of two 2018 BWM summer interns.

**This past summer I was an intern** for the BWM, which provided me with some amazing opportunities. I traveled to Peru to interpret for a mission team, and it was inspiring to see the work that the BWM and our Peruvian brothers and sisters are doing to make Moravian ministry happen there.

I also had the chance to visit Laurel Ridge where I helped Bishop Sam Gray lead a program on “loving your neighbor” as the theme of Mission

Camp. It was such a blessing to see the campers make connections between the Bible passages and their mission projects and to hear about how they had already been living out the message of the Good Samaritan at home.

Beyond these two incredible experiences, I had the chance to learn more about the work that the BWM is doing in the world, and I felt so blessed to be working within my faith community.

# THE AHUAS CLINIC: REFLECTIONS



Opening donation of supplies in Ahuas

**The Ahuas Clinic remains the largest single program** effort supported annually by the BWM. We have been blessed to take part in this ministry, and to have Rick Nelson acting as consultant to the BWM and the Clinic. BWM efforts in support of the clinic include growing capacity for financial management, overseeing maintenance of a large medical facility, and providing financial support to help cover costs of staff, medicine and equipment to provide much-needed medical care.

In 2018, the board worked with the La Follette School of Public Affairs, a graduate program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, to have two semester-long reports produced on the work of the clinic. A policy analysis and a cost-benefit analysis were conducted to assess the current administrative and financial capabilities of the clinic. The two reports provided some tangible plans of action related to the administration and funding of the clinic. The BWM is grateful for the free consulting services provided by these graduate students, and their work will help to shape the future involvement of the BWM with the Ahuas Clinic.

Here is a reflection of the work at the Ahuas Clinic in 2018 from Rick Nelson:

“The Honduran ministries supported by the Board of World Mission are blessed by North Americans who support us with prayers, visits, material donations, financial support and Christian Love. The Clínica Evangélica

ca Morava, which will celebrate its 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary in June, continues to bless the people of La Mosquitia by curing illnesses, saving lives and winning souls for the Lamb. In 2018 we saw much activity.

Moravian and Rotarian donations of \$83,078 allowed us to build a perimeter fence, replace deteriorated ceilings in the operating room and two main clinic buildings, install ten rain water harvesting tanks, dig four wells and repair/map the entire plumbing system.

With generous gifts, a new lab was completed to comply with Ministry of Health standards, and drainage ditches were dug to remove unwanted runoff. Moravians, Methodists and Reformed Church members from North Dakota, Michigan, North Carolina and Wisconsin, helped us to continue the Women’s Garden and build a chicken coop that has been producing up to two dozen eggs daily. With help from many sources, we have provided nutritious meals at three different sites to 100 malnourished children, six days a week, and have sustained the Women’s Sewing Project with materials and the acquisition of three – soon to be four – sewing machines.

With funds from North Dakota, a new John Deere tractor was purchased and shipped to Ahuas in January 2019. With donations from Door County, Wisconsin, and the Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach in Springfield, Illinois, a container of medical supplies was scheduled to arrive in Ahuas before Holy Week of 2019.

Performing surgery in a refurbished operating room



A total of eight work crews from Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Ohio and Idaho helped with prayers, construction, medical work, dental services, outpatient visits to three outlying communities, infant nutrition, the Egg Project, painting, the Rotary Project, the new lab, patient records and the testimony of Christian love that their presence in Ahuas demonstrated.

Just as Abraham in Genesis 12 was blessed so that he could be a blessing, supporters of the work in Honduras have shared their blessings so that we could bless others. The central focus of the hospital has always been to bring people to Christ through the provision of medical services. Last year we assisted with 195 births, performed 246 surgeries, admitted 825 patients, saw 3,444 outpatients, did 550 ultrasounds, performed 4,449 lab exams and took 336 x-rays.

On a Monday evening last May, a young couple arrived at the hospital with their five-year-old son. Having walked twelve hours through the rain from the community of Warunta, the three of them were soaked and disheveled.

The parents had come to the only place where they could get help for their little boy. Both family and hospital staff wondered if they had waited too long. The child had a distended belly, extreme pain, yellow eyes and a 102-degree fever. Dr. Kenneth ordered lab tests, an x-ray and an ultrasound. An ultrasound identified problems



with the boy's liver. When Kenneth told the parents to search for a unit of blood so that he could operate as soon as possible, they replied that they did not have money, but would donate it themselves.

Kenneth worried that the child would not survive the night, but was pleased on Tuesday morning when the patient seemed strong enough to undergo surgery. In the O.R., as expected, Kenneth found a liver abscess, which was removed, and a drain was inserted to remove any remaining infection. By Wednesday, when Kenneth was on rounds, he was glad to find the child with a declining temperature and reduced pain, saying he was hungry. He would live!

We have been blessed so that we can be a blessing to needy patients like the little boy from Warunta.

Rick Nelson prepares for a trip upriver in Honduras.

Funds from North Dakota helped purchase a new tractor



# SIERRA LEONE



Safiatu and Mohamed Braima in Sierra Leone.

**When God called Abraham and Sarah,** God said that they would be blessed and that they would *be* a blessing; that all of the nations – all of the ethnicities – of the earth would be blessed through them. They stepped out in faith, not really knowing where they were going, but knowing that God would lead them, step by step.

Many years later, God called Mohamed and Safiatu Braima and asked them to take steps of faith. Here are some of the steps in their amazing journey:

- ♦ In 1975, after finishing high school in his native Sierra Leone, Mohamed came to the United States.
- ♦ In 1977, he was baptized into the membership of the Moravian Church in Charlotte, NC.
- ♦ In 1981, the Board of World Mission decided to explore the possibility of mission work in Sierra Leone, but it was not God's time for the next step...yet.
- ♦ In 1986, Mohamed married Safiatu (Safie), also from Sierra Leone. And God gradually, step by step, began to give them a burden for their homeland.
- ♦ In 1991, a bloody "civil" war broke out in Sierra Leone and lasted ten years. Many of the churches that had been there before the war were now gone and there were thousands of refugees and people who had been left with nothing.
- ♦ In 2004, God said, "Go," and Mohamed and Safie took a step of faith and went. They were heartbroken by what they saw, but God gave them a vision of what could be, and they started to take more steps to be where God wanted them to be and to do what God wanted them to do.
- ♦ After Mohamed completed his studies at Reformed Seminary, he and Safie were commissioned as missionaries to Sierra Leone.
- ♦ By 2008, they had built a community library and dedicated a Moravian church building in Ngehun, and in 2009, they started building a Secondary School.
- ♦ In 2010, Sierra Leone was designated as a Mission Area of the Worldwide Unity, under the supervision of the Southern Province.
- ♦ Mohamed was ordained as a Deacon in 2012, and the ministry in Ngehun continued to grow and expand into nearby villages.

In 2018, the Rev. Mohamed Braima passed into the more immediate presence of his Lord and Savior. But the steps that he and Safie took are the beginning of a journey that will continue with support from many who loved him and who share the vision of the fulfillment of God's promise to bless all nations through him, through them, and through us.



## ADOPT-A-VILLAGE: WESTERN TANZANIA

**The Moravian Church of Western Tanzania's** orphan care initiative is now in its nineteenth year. Thirty-three "Moravian Mamas" care for over 2900 children located in 33 villages and five parishes, providing them with food, clothing, medical care and scholarships for those pursuing education beyond secondary school. In the city of Tabora, 50 percent of the orphans are receiving education beyond primary school; in the villages the number is nearly 10 percent. Due to squalid living conditions in Tabora, multiple families there have also been given mattresses.

The Adopt-a-Village program, a joint venture between Central Moravian Church and the Board of World Mission, began in 2006 to provide financial support for these endeavors.

In the city of Tabora, three groups of orphans who have graduated from vocational schools have begun their own businesses; two ladies' groups, one of four, the other of eight, are involved in tailoring, while four young men have set up a carpentry shop.

One additional well was constructed during the year, bringing the

total to 16. Funding is available for four more.

The Kabanga Moravian Church has been completed, the fourteenth since 2000. The church in the village of Mazinge should be finished by the end of 2019. A Sukuma congregation in Mwasavanga is building their church with financial assistance from the Society for Promoting the Gospel (SPG). Construction of the second Moravian church in Tutuo is being funded by Palmer Moravian in Pennsylvania.

Four of the seven "Parker Scholarship Students" will graduate as evangelists from the Lusangi Bible College this year. Three additional scholarship candidates registered at the school this winter.

The Sikonge Special Needs School, for the blind, deaf, or "slow learners," now has 81 students, 71 of whom are boarders.

In the Sukuma villages of Igulula and Mwasavanga, a total of 76 adults and 98 children attend Sunday services regularly.

—Drs. Bill and Peg Hoffman

Orphans in Tabora, Western Tanzania, aided by the Adopt-a-Village Program

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Support and Revenue

For the year ended December 31, 2018  
Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church

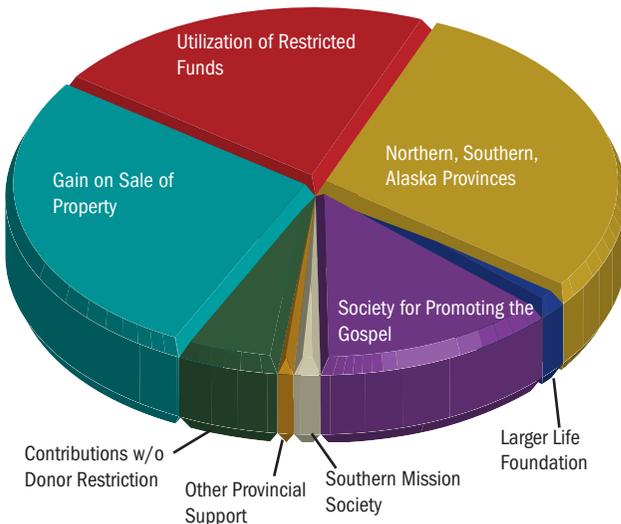
Northern, Southern, Alaska Provinces	\$484,928
Larger Life Foundation	\$25,790
Society for Promoting the Gospel	\$210,588
Mission Society, Southern Province	\$25,000
Other Provincial Support	\$14,508
Investment Returns	(145,034)
Contributions without Donor Restriction	88,795
Other: Gain on Sale of Property	455,117
Utilization of Restricted Funds	348,762
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,508,454</b>

The Board of World Mission (BWM) enjoyed a successful year financially in 2018 thanks to the generous support of many stakeholders interested in furthering our engagement and outreach. The accompanying graphic depicts the sources of our income and the focus of our expenditures.

Our income surpassed \$1.5 million this year, mainly with the sale of both of our properties—the manse in Bethlehem and the house in Mississippi (which we’ve had since the Hurricane Katrina disaster). With changed priorities for each of the properties, we realized \$455,000 from their sales, which bolstered the current year income. While we recognize the gain this year, the proceeds have been transferred to investment accounts for use over time.

## 2018 Support and Revenue

Total: \$1,508,454



Provincial support continues to be the cornerstone of our fiscal strength, this year accounting for 27 percent of our income. Restricted funds, accounting for 19 percent of our income, have been used heavily to support existing and developing missions as evidenced by the high level of Assistance Grants placed this year. Our partners from Society for Promoting the Gospel, the Larger Life Foundation and the Southern Mission Society account for 17 percent of our support collectively, and remain

instrumental as a conduit for our mission growth and outreach.

Our programming costs approach 90 percent, with the Assistance Grants—putting the money in the countries or areas that need it—accounting for 57 percent of our overall expenditures. The Assistance Grants are high, in part, as a result of the number of disasters which occurred in 2018 as well as a focused effort in releasing funds rapidly and regularly as the needs warrant.

With new accounting standards in place at the BWM, we are reporting out on the activity without donor restrictions. Our audited statements will show another \$211,000 net support with donor restrictions. We are pleased to carry \$252,000 from our funds without donor restrictions into 2019 and beyond, along with \$211,000 with donor restriction, to further grow our mission outreach and engagement.

The 2018 audited reports are available to view at our Bethlehem office. For additional information or a copy of the audited financial statements, please contact Sister Deb or myself at the Bethlehem office of the BWM. Thank you for your support of this important outreach.

*Rex Knowlton, Treasurer*

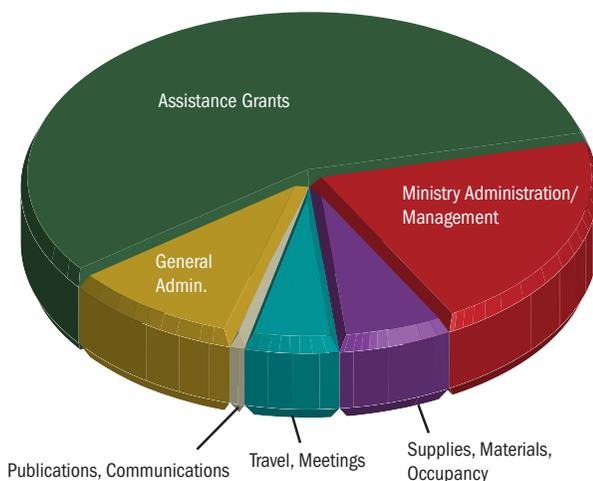
## Expenditures

For the year ended December 31, 2018  
Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church

Direct Program Costs	
Assistance Grants	\$711,830
Ministry Administration/Management	\$259,453
Supplies, Materials, Occupancy	\$78,981
Travel, Meetings	\$67,299
Publications, Communications	\$12,198
General Administration	\$125,926
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,255,687</b>

## 2018 Expenditures

Total: \$1,255,687



The board and staff of the Board of World Mission thank the contributors who provided articles, information, photographs and other material for this year's Annual Report.

Originally published as a special section of *The Moravian Magazine*, this Annual Report is also available in digital format from the BWM.

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Visit us at [www.moravianmission.org](http://www.moravianmission.org).



# BOARD OF WORLD MISSION

of the Moravian Church • North America

Board of World Mission staff and directors Engage you to take part in the common mission of the BWM: Mission Outreach—using our gifts to support ministries with our partners around the world.

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Yes! I wish to make a financial contribution to the work of the Board of World Mission, Moravian Church in North America.

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Board of World Mission for the purposes of:

- Helping where it is needed.  
 Helping a specific program: \_\_\_\_\_

*100% of your donation will go directly to mission programming.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be a Friend of BWM and receive your newsletter and periodic information about mission opportunities.

The BWM may contact me by email. My email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks must be made payable to "Board of World Mission."

Please mail your tax-deductible donation to:

**The Board of World Mission**, 1021 Center St., Bethlehem, PA 18018

or visit us at [www.moravianmission.org](http://www.moravianmission.org) to donate online.

